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South Med J 1999 May;92(5):493-501

Determinants of the excessive rates of lung cancer in northeast Florida.

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BACKGROUND: Age-adjusted rates of lung cancer among whites, but not blacks, in Duval County Jacksonville), Florida, have been among the highest of any metropolitan area of the United States for three decades. METHODS: We conducted a case-control study, interviewing 507 patients with lung cancer diagnosed from 1993 to 1996 and 1,007 control subjects, randomly selected from the county population. RESULTS: Cigarette smoking was the dominant cause of lung cancer (odds ratios, 59 among male current smokers; 30 among female current smokers). Both prevalence and intensity of smoking were excessive for whites but less for blacks when compared with national norms. Little association was found with residential patterns, indices of air quality, or occupation. Risk doubled with increased intake of dietary fat and with a family history of lung cancer. CONCLUSIONS: Life-style factors, especially smoking, but not environmental factors, appear responsible for the high rates of lung cancer in northeast Florida.

Publication Types:

- Clinical trial
- Randomized controlled trial

PMID: 10342896, UI: 99272324

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